

fears on being able to go on line with the system of changing that date and giving them some additional time to do this. In addition to that, in the committee amendments, we added a new section to the bill that directs the Department of Motor Vehicles on a biannual basis to provide a report to both the Appropriations and Transportation Committees on the status of the installation of the system so that we would know exactly where they were while they were doing this. So, basically, these are the reasons for the committee amendments. They were adopted by the committee. Because of the objections of the Nebraska Association of County Officials and individual counties, and I know there is some objection on the part of the Appropriations Committee relative to that, but at this point I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments and will answer any questions and enter into the debate as we discuss them.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members, first of all, I would like to begin by thanking the Transportation Committee for advancing the bill out of committee. Obviously, by imposing a mandate in 1997, the mandate argument is no longer a concern, and so now, I guess, we need to talk about what the date of that mandate should be. To give you the history of it, as I talked before, the 814 project which, as I said, I think Tuesday morning at eight o'clock we're going to have a briefing for senators and staff if they wish to come and understand more about that, because I think that's a...there's not a whole lot of knowledge about the system and I encourage you to know more. But, nevertheless, one of the components of the entire county automation project is the vehicle title and registration component. And actually the VTR component is the first one to really get up and running in a good fashion. I think it's running very well. I think it would be instrumental if you look at the fiscal note, look at the back page of the fiscal note, you will look at the Douglas County Clerk's opinion of that, the savings there, but the overall vehicle title and registration is the component that is working very well. We have 24 counties in the state already signed up in the title application, 14 doing both title and registration. That's, obviously, less than a third, almost a little more than a fourth of the counties but those counties that are already on represent over 50 percent of the vehicles, and so 50 percent of the activity in the state is